

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

BLEEKER *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/673,922

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: **Methods and Systems to
Compensate for a Stitching
Disturbance of a Printed Pattern in
a Maskless Lithography System Not
Utilizing Overlap of the Exposure
Zones**

Confirmation No.: 7367

Art Unit: 1756

Examiner: Young, Christopher G.

Atty. Docket: 1857.1760000

Information Disclosure Statement

Mail Stop RCE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying IDS Forms are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached IDS Forms based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign

patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- c. The required fee is provided through online credit card payment authorization in the amount of \$0.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. The required fee is provided through online credit card payment authorization in the amount of \$0.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than

three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).
- 7. Copies of documents FP1-FP2 and NPL1 are submitted. However, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), no copies of U.S. patents and patent application publications cited on the attached IDS Forms are submitted.
- 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed

_____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

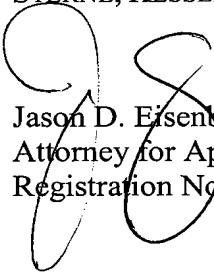
9. It is expected that the examiner will review the prosecution and cited art in the parent application no(s). _____ in accordance with MPEP 2001.06(b), and indicate in the next communication from the office that the art cited in the earlier prosecution history has been reviewed in connection with the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed IDS Forms, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


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Attorney for Applicants
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Date: 6/14/07

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DOC#686199_1.DOC

Atty. Dkt. No. 1857.1760000

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/673,922
				Filing Date	September 30, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Arno BLEEKER
				Art Unit	1756
				Examiner Name	Young, Christopher G.
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1857.1760000

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if Known)			
US1	5,229,872		07-20-1993	Mumola	
US2	5,296,891		03-22-1994	Vogt <i>et al.</i>	
US3	5,500,736		03-19-1996	Koitabashi <i>et al.</i>	
US4	5,523,193		06-04-1996	Nelson	
US5	5,530,482		06-25-1996	Gove <i>et al.</i>	
US6	5,579,147		11-26-1996	Mori <i>et al.</i>	
US7	5,677,703		10-14-1997	Bhuva <i>et al.</i>	
US8	5,808,797		09-15-1998	Bloom <i>et al.</i>	
US9	5,982,553		11-09-1999	Bloom <i>et al.</i>	
US10	6,133,986		10-17-2000	Johnson	
US11	6,177,980 B1		01-23-2001	Johnson	
US12	6,285,488 B1		09-04-2001	Sandstrom	
US13	6,687,041 B1		02-03-2004	Sandstrom	
US14	6,747,783 B1		06-08-2004	Sandstrom	
US15	6,795,169 B2		09-21-2004	Tanaka <i>et al.</i>	
US16	6,806,897 B2		10-19-2004	Kataoka <i>et al.</i>	
US17	6,811,953 B2		11-02-2004	Hatada <i>et al.</i>	
US18	2004/0041104 A1		03-04-2004	Liebregts <i>et al.</i>	
US19	2004/0130561 A1		07-08-2004	Jain	
US20	2005/0007572 A1		01-13-2005	George <i>et al.</i>	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
FP1	WO 98/33096 A1		07-30-1998	Sandstrom <i>et al.</i>	
FP2	WO 98/38597 A2,A3		09-03-1998	Thuren	
FP3					
FP4					
FP5					
FP6					
FP7					
FP8					
FP9					

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/673,922
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				Art Unit	1756
				Examiner Name	Young, Christopher G.
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1857.1760000

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published		T ²
	NPL1	Cobb et al., "Fast, Low-Complexity Mask Design", <i>Optical/Laser Microlithography VIII</i> , SPIE, 22-24 February 1995, Vol. 2440, pgs. 313-327.		
	NPL2			
	NPL3			
	NPL4			
	NPL5			
	NPL6			
	NPL7			
	NPL8			
	NPL9			
	NPL10			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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